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237 juvenile delinquents in San Antonio last year

SAN ANTONIO—Their chief offenses petty theft and sex, 237 Negro children were among 2,932 juvenile delinquents arrested in San Antonio last year. San Antonio has no facilities for disciplining Negro juveniles.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (ANP) —Alarmed and concerned over the great increase in juvenile delinquency, Att. Gen. Clark announced last week the department of justice plans to combat this evil.

A committee of 25 outstanding church leaders, educators, welfare workers and business men will be called to discuss it on a panel with the department of justice and representative from states, counties and city governments plans to correct the rise in delinquency.

Since 1939, the percentage of girls under 18 has jumped 198 percent that of boys in the same age category has jumped 48 percent.

The New York plan has been under scrutiny by the department and it is probable that this will be given full consideration at the conference. In New York, a juvenile arrested for delinquency, is given a probationary term before being brought to trial. If, during that period, no breach is committed, the case is not heard and the youth has no black mark against his or her record.

Nine types of crime are involved in juvenile delinquency, which is a blanket title. They range from insubordination at home to more serious crimes involving sex, assault, robbery and sometime murder.

There is a great need for particular attention to this type of work among Negro children, for in few instances are there institutions for their benefit, although religious sects provide care and attention for white.

Because of this particular need, the "big brother" movement has gained headway in many cities. In New York, Christopher Poussaint, a well-known printer, civic leader and Catholic, has interested himself in this side of the work and has taken many would-be wayward boys under his guidance and turned them into different channels. Mr. Poussaint is an ardent supporter of the Y.M.C.A. and believes it is doing a great work in this field.

Mr. Clark is expected to call in a group of Negroes interested in this work when the panel is formed.

During the depression, Dr. Abram Goldfield, head of Lavenburg foundation, took over a survey to determine the relationship between juvenile delinquency and bad housing. His survey covered a slum area in New York. In the survey, 5,000 houses were visited. In these houses, lived 45,000 families, with a total population of over 200,000 persons of all races, religious and nationalities.

RACE HATRED SEEN AS BASE OF TEEN-AGE N. Y. GANG WARFARE

New York. (ANP)—Currently, juvenile gang warfare is approaching a new danger point with emphasis on racial clashes, and stress on minority persecution which shows signs of incipient fascism, according to Bradford Chambers, young sociologist and writer, who has made first hand investigations of youthful gangs here and in other large cities.

Chambers, writing in the April issue of American Mercury, warns that racial gang conflict is more intense and has uglier aspects than ordinary gang fighting, and is repeating the same social pattern which started Hitler and Mussolini on the road to power. As an eye-witness, the writer says he has seen "stomping" where the victim is held on the ground while several boys jump upon his stomach and kick his face. "This rarely occurs in non-racial fighting," he says.

Particularly significant in recent gangland eruptions in certain sections of New York is the warfare which takes place almost exclusively in uptown areas where the overcrowded Harlem Negroes and Puerto Ricans "are pushing their way into better housing," and in the Bronx where anti-Semitism is rife. In these areas, the writer reveals, it is not uncommon for the bog gangs from downtown and their "debutantes," girl assistants, to go "Nigger hunting" and "Jew hunting."

Within Harlem, Chambers says, Negro gangs and Puerto Ricans war among themselves. However, as Negro districts expanded during the war, white gangs led by the "Hancocks," "the Rainbows," and the "Irish Dukes" turned to racial conflict, and in Harlem, the "Negro Sabers," the "Socialistics" and the "Chancellers" joined battle. Members of these gangs range in age from 11 to 17, many of them confirmed truants, and each gang has it own name, color, and insignia, often emblazoned on made-to-order jackets, investigation revealed.

"War counselors" are charged with making preparations for fights, Chambers learned. He sees that the gang is amply armed with bricks and other weapons, some of which are "clubs (wooden sticks, baseball bats or pieces of pipe), knives (fish or switch-blade), and broken bottles." Brass knuckles, blackjacks, and ice picks are also used.

Chambers sees broderline neighborhoods situated between segregated communities of race, creed or nationality as a destructive community pattern. "Fear, suspicion, and antagonism of the adjoining district prevails," he says. Many of the gangland youths have learned from their parents the nature of the enemy against which they must protect themselves, he found. He states:

Over and over again boys have told me the same story of employers lowering salaries in the knowledge that Negroes will work for less. 'Know what that means,? they demand. 'It means the jigs will throw us whites out of work.'

The 75 or more gangs now functioning in New York have potentialities for constructive behavior, Chambers feels, but declares that a complacent society as yet has made no effective effort to turn the assets into such channels.

After witnessing a particularly vicious pitched battle between a Harlem gang and a white group of vandals, Chambers inquired of the sole policeman in the neighborhood as to why no arrests were made. He received this reply:

"Look," the policeman said. "I'm on night duty, and this is a pretty common occurrence. If I arrest those kids, I have to appear in court tomorrow morning to bring charges. That's extra time for me and cops don't get paid for it."

No thorough regeneration can be effective without getting at the basic causes of modern gang warfare, Chamber concluded. The most obvious, he says, are "unemployment, racial discrimination, and slums. The kid gangs are only symptoms of deep-seated social an deconomic disturbances."

PRIVATE SHELTERS FOR YOUNG SCORED

Citizens Committee on Harlem Says Temporary Homes Will Not Curb Delinquency

A unanimous recommendation favoring the abolition of private temporary shelters for children was adopted yesterday by the executive committee of the City-wide Citizens Committee on Harlem, which submitted also a program designed to make New York City a pioneer in progressive techniques of crime and delinquency prevention.

On the issue of shelters, Edwin J. Lukas, subcommittee chairman on crime and delinquency of the city-wide group, declared, "As long as temporary shelter care of children is more or less exclusively entrusted to private institutions, one of the important phases of New York City's crime and delinquency problem will remain unsolved."

The recommendations of the committee, which is headed by Algernon D. Black and Assemblyman William T. Andrews, were issued as part of its city-wide Harlem Week program.

Study of Causes Urged

The committee urged that prevention and treatment of cases take into consideration "causation" elements such as housing, education, recreation and employment.

Also it was urged that the salary scales of probation officers, which now start at $1,600 and $1,800 in the Magistrates Courts and Childrens Court, be increased to improve the standards of personnel.

With relation to probationary staffs, the committee suggested that pre-trial and pre-hearing investigations be conducted in all cases, and that there be uniformity in the selection of probation officers and the fulfillment of their functions.

Until the State and city assume full responsibility, the committee suggested that agencies operating in the field of child care be made accountable to a single over-all coordinating commission that would have sufficient authority to delegate functions to each agency.

Taxpayer's Suit Advocated

The committee advocated the initiation of a taxpayer's suit to challenge the tax exemption eligibility of agencies that refuse to comply with the Race Discrimination Amendment and the exertion of pressure on actual and prospective donors of funds to withhold financial assistance to such agencies.

"Perhaps most importantly," the committee said, was "the immediate and serious consideration of the establishment and maintenance of publicly supported, publicly maintained, and publicly accountable detention and long-term care institutions, either in conjunction with or instead of private institutions."

The committee noted that due to the introduction of labor saving devices, many southern Negroes were moving north and recommended the development of human relations projects in churches, schools, civic groups and community coordinating councils to meet problems that may arise.

Boys' Town Is Established For Colony's Young Criminals

Youths Run Their Own Daily Newspaper

Nigerian Spectator

LAGOS, April 5.— On Friday six of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council were shown how good and useful citizens can be made from young criminals.

Those members to visit the remand home for juvenile delinquents at Isheri, were The Rev. the Hon Canon T. A. J. Ogunbiyi. O.B.E. (Colony Division), The Rev. the Hon. Okon Efiong, O.B.E. (Calabar Municipality), The Rev. the Hon. Archdeacon E. T. Dimieari, (Rivers Division, The Rev. the Hon Canon L. A. Lennon, M.B.E. (Ondo Division), The Hon. Gage H. H. O'Dwyer, (Ibibio Division), The Hon. T. A. Odutola (Ijebu Division).

Sat 4-6-46

The members saw fifty-eight convicted thieves between the ages of eleven and seventeen years, learning to become healthy, honest tradesmen, without the use of bars or blows.

They saw the boys working and playing with complete freedom in the village which, little more than a year ago, was thick bush.

"Most of the boys," explained Mr D. E. Faulkner, Welfare Officer, who conducted the party, "came from very poor homes where they had little real affection.

"They felt unwanted.

"We aim to remove that impression and make them feel useful members of the community."

Mr Faulkner, who was an expert in child delinquency in England, showed the members how records are kept of each boy.

These tell of his offence, his background, and physique when entering the school.

The records also show the progress made by the boy, and report on how many letters and visits he received from his family.

After studying the daily programme, the members visited the buildings, where they saw the boys at work.

4-6-46

A new boy first works in the kitchen where he can be kept under constant supervision.

But later he takes his place in the various classes where carpentry, building handicrafts are taught in addition to ordinary lessons.

Sport, games, recreation and physical training play a big part in the boy's lives.

Gardening is included in the recreation and the boys are allowed to keep anything they grow.

The boys have their own council which meets every Monday night, run their own newspaper, and compete hotly to keep up the good conduct standard of their group.

Sat 4-6-46

Divided into three groups, that with the highest marks is rewarded with a camping trip.

The members were deeply impressed with the physical training display.

The boys marched and drilled like trained soldiers, and their vaulting, tumbling and back-springing, would have done credit to trained athletes.

On the journey back to Lagos, the members agreed among themselves that the £2,000 spent on the school was very little for what had been achieved, and that had the boys developed into hardened criminals, the cost to Nigeria would have been far greater.

RALPH McGILL

There Are No Juvenile Delinquents

Constitution

At the age of nine young Red Rudensky was sent to the reform school.

For 37 turbulent years thereafter he was in and out of prisons. Mostly he was "in."

He escaped a few times, was released now and then. But always his period of freedom was short.

What did he think when, as a youngster, he "got out"?

He cannot be quite sure.

It always was a period of excitement, a time of release. What is sure to the middle-aged man is that never was there any consciousness of direction. There is no memory of any person or agency which took any interest in direction of the young mind or energy.

Sunday 5-30-46

The family was written off. It was the family which had made a false accusation against the boy; whipped him, beaten him until a doctor had to be called. A few months of this and the family said to the reform school that he was "incorrigible."

So, out of the slums of Brooklyn he had gone to "reform school." There he was taught how to be a professional criminal.

There followed more than 30 years of prison life—in and out—mostly in. A final long stretch in the Federal prison ended two years ago.

Red Rudensky came out into a world he never knew.

It was one that had changed enormously.

He, too, had changed. He had found an outlet for his mind and energy in the prison paper. It is no exaggeration to say that he brought about considerable reform in the entire Federal prison system.

This he could not have done had he not had a warden who knew what could be done and who saw that this was one way it could be done.

Ed Martin

When he came out his talents gave him a chance in an unusual business, one owned by an ex-convict with only ex-convicts as employes. The business manager gets $40,000 a year, which will give an idea of its success. Red Rudensky is writing ad copy and has had two promotions.

This will serve to introduce the subject of this interview. I think he is an expert.

Atlanta

Witness "Mr. Rudensky, will you take the stand, please . . . thank you.

"Mr. Rudensky are you an expert on juvenile delinquency?"

"No, sir."

"Why, I thought you said—"

"Pardon me, but there is no such thing as juvenile delinquency. The correct title for this subject is 'parental delinquency.'"

"Will you go on, please?"

"No kid ever came into the world a delinquent. Something makes him into one. I know. I was one. I associated with them. I was in a gang of them at the age of nine years. I was with them in reform schools. I was with the graduates of these reform schools in jails and Federal prisons. So, I know my subject. I am an expert.

"No boy or girl is a natural delinquent. Influences, plus lack of influences, mould them. Some parents don't understand their children and don't try to understand them. A lot of parents don't want kids. The psychology books tell you that the important thing to make a newborn baby feel and understand is a sense of security. They have got to get that in the first few months of their life. How many thousand do you suppose don't get it?"

Man-to-Man "A lot of kids get no home instruction. The only phrase I can think of to explain it is 'man-to-man talk.' They need that. They don't need preaching at or beating. They need someone who comes to them with the knowledge that it is an adult talking to a kid and there is a wide gulf in their mental processes. How to bridge that is the job and it requires little more than common sense.

Sunday 5-30-46

"Not all the inmates of reform schools and jails come out of homes where the parents are drunks or in vice rackets. Not all of them come out of broken homes where the mother or father is away working all day. A lot of them come out of homes where the only companionship is at the drugstore corner; where the only instruction given is by the kids a little further along in the mill; where the only home instruction is a strap and a harsh word; where the kid just tries to stay out of the way of his parents like a furtive little animals.

"Then society puts them in a jail the first time they are picked up. It won't provide understanding instructors. It provides bars and tough guards who don't want delinquency stopped because it means the end of their jobs. That is stupid."

"Thank you, Mr. Rudensky, we may call you again in this case."

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Drinking School Children

The Afro American Baltimore, Md.

A 14-year-old schoolboy was recently so drunk that he attacked both a policeman and his principal. Sat. 6-29-46

He tore up the principal's office before he lay down on the floor where he went to sleep. His mother was called and she was over an hour getting to the school.

When she saw the boy, she took him in her arms and hugged and kissed him.

Forty years ago, that drunken 14-year-old would have been sobered by a birch rod in the hands of his principal. He would have remembered that whipping for a long while and he would not drink any more if he were going to school. Then, when he got home, his parents would have given him a second whipping.

Today, we believe in moral suasion and, because we considered the tyranny of the birch rod was too severe, we have let the pendulum swing so far in the other direction that neither principal nor parents punish children for such outrages as mentioned above.

The boy got drunk during school hours. He lost control of himself, made a disturbance with the other pupils, fought with a policeman, called him everything except a child of God, was equally disrespectful to his principal, broke up paraphernalia in the principal's office and finally went to sleep on the floor.

After all of these violations of decency and good order he is gathered into his mother's arms and slobbered over because "my poor boy has been led astray."

Under circumstances such as these, we should have a revival of corporal punishment.

This boy needs discipline badly. If a parent is going to spare the rod and spoil his child, then whippings by the principal should be revived in the schools.

The old theory of education was that human nature in children was essentially bad and ought frequently to be punished. Today's theory is that the nature of children is essentially good and ought never to be punished.

Actually, the truth is somewhere about mid-way.

In the old days when women first took to drinking, newspaper editors used to write that there was nothing more disgusting than a drunken woman. Well, there is. It is a drunken child.

Beating Delinquency

The Birmingham News

Juvenile delinquency pops up and once more hits us in the eye with the penetrating account of 1945's errant youngsters prepared by Alyce Billings Walker as part of a series on "social breakdown" in Jefferson County. Two major conclusions are warranted, Mrs. Walker indicates, on the basis of statistics: (1) The Negro rate of delinquency declined in 1945; (2) the white rate increased.

There are many breakdowns of these statistics—breakdowns within breakdowns. It is unfortunate that cases involving emotional disturbances among impressionable young people must be viewed in terms of "statistics"; indeed, they are not, except in year-end accountings. The agencies which work with young people, which keep an eye on the rate of delinquency, do not think of the troubles as percentages. They are individual cases, each with a cause, each with a possible solution. Birmingham, Ala

It seems significant that the Negro rate of juvenile delinquency has dropped. As Mrs. Walker emphasizes, one contributing reason undoubtedly is the fact that many Negro families have a higher income now —and had it in 1945—than has been the case in previous years. Much of youthful venture into crime—particularly in stealing —undoubtedly is due to the fact that children or young people want things and often cannot understand why they cannot have toys or certain pleasures while other children have them. This, of course, is true among white children as well as Negroes. A child, a boy or girl between the ages of 12, say, and 16, has many needs, many desires. Tue. 7-12-46

It is possible to draw the conclusion that much of our delinquency comes from residential areas which represent a comfortable economic level. In other words, while poverty might contribute to some delinquency, it is by no means the cause in all areas. Still greater work evidently can be done toward providing facilities for healthful recreation for young people. But simple provision of facilities is not all that is needed. The youngsters must be interested, or facilities will stand unused.

Older persons are much perplexed by the "times" through which we are struggling. Consider then the still greater pressures on unformed minds. Ordinary life, day-to-day existences, often are routine, even dull, in many families. There is so much reliance in our "civilized" life on die-cut radio entertainment, on "glamor" as portrayed in the movies. Young people's minds are pulled and twisted. They live in homes where there may be little of "glamor" or zest in living; even when the financial status of the family is "comfortable," father may be weary worried about business or concerned about government; mother may be exasperated because she cannot buy food or other things A boy or girl in adolescence is pulled by strange contrasts—the romance which comes from crooners; the starry eyes which shine from movie heroines' faces; suavity and chrome-and-leather fixtures typify "big-time" life. Youngsters often have a difficult time accepting life in Leeds or Birmingham or Tarrant, for instance, when they know there is a Hollywood, a Broadway.

Tue. 7-12-46

Protests Boy's Arrest

The Courier-Journal

I just saw an officer arrest a colored boy in front of one of the 5-and-10-cent stores for selling paper shopping bags. Personally, I think that's all wrong. The boy is trying to earn a few nickels the honest way. That may be forcing the same boy to go stealing. 12-19-46 CHARLES B. WORTHINGTON.

Louisville. Louisville, Ky. Thurs.

6 Kidnapers Held by FBI in Indiana

The Afro American Baltimore, Md.

LA GRANGE, Ind. — The recent abduction of a Chicago cab driver here led to the arrest of 4 colored persons, a white man and a white girl, who have been turned over to the FBI to face charges of kidnaping and auto theft. Sat. 7-27-46

The driver of the cab, Charles Smith, told police that his abductors had planned a series of holdups and that he escaped from them when the white girl was left to guard the car and he overpowered her.

The six fugitives were identified as Hugh Vernon, John Williams, Mary Ann Burton and William McDaniels, colored, and Lloyd Payne and Miss Ruth Mullen, white. Miss Mullen, a former snake charmer, was carrying a snake in her luggage.

Kid War Flares Again

Amsterdam News

Teen-age gang warfare flared anew last week and, when it was all over, one youth was in Harlem Hospital with a three inch knife wound in his back, another suffered a bullet wound in the hip and a third was shot in the thigh. New York, NY

Held in connection with knifing of Alphonso Chauncey, 16, were Bernard "Tank" Israel, 531 E. 167th St., the Bronx, George "Righteous" Fluellen, 847 Kelly St., and George "Billy Humps" Stevenson, of 61 W 114th St. Sat. 8-10-46

Police of the Sixth Division's Youth Squad described them as members of a club known as "The Copians." Plainclothesmen James Brown, James Morrow, Claude Phillips and Claude Cargill picked the suspects up last Thursday and Friday.

Other Arrests Coming

It was believed that other arrests would be made this week but the sleuths investigating the case declined to discuss such prospects.

Chauncey, who lives at 165 Manhattan Ave., was pounced upon last Tuesday night in W. 138th street, between Lenox and Seventh Aves., when "Tank," "Billy Humps" and two others who escaped leaped from a taxicab and started shooting.

Chauncey and three other boys were standing near Lenox avenue when the "Copians" arrived.

One of the attackers plunged a long hunting knife into Chauncey's back, narrowly missing his left lung. The frightened youth raced towards Seventh avenue with the knife still in his back. 8-10-46 Sat.

As he ran up the street screaming, one of the hoodlums pulled two revolvers and started shooting.

Innocent Bystander Hit

As a result, another youth standing outside the building where he lived was struck in the hip by a stray bullet. Police identified the victim as Alfred Crum, of 115 W. 138th St.

Two nights later, two taxicabs rolled slowly along W. 115th street carrying at least 10 armed youths, witnesses reported.

Suddenly, they all leaped from the cabs and started shooting. Despite all the noise, only Henry Flores, 17, turned up as a casualty. Flores, who lives at 707 Jackson Ave., the Bronx, was shot in the left leg.

Copians vs Slicksters Again

Flores was also described as a member of "The Copians." His attackers presumably represented a club called "The Slicksters."

Those under arrest are scheduled for a hearing in Children's Court on August 20. Fluellen was sent back to Warwick for violating his parole.

Teen-Agers Among Six Held in Chi Kidnaping

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 7-27-46

These youngsters, four of them in their teens, were arrested last week by Indiana State police in connection with the kidnaping of Charlie Smith, Chicago taxi driver, who reported hearing them plot a series of other crimes. Left to right, front, Lloyd R. Payne, white, 22, Rockmark, Ga; Hugh Vernon, 19, Birmingham, Ala., John Williams, 18, Cleveland, Miss. Second row, Ruth E. Mullen, 18, white, and Mary Ann Burton, 21, both of Chicago; and William McDaniel, 14, St. Louis.